



# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN GOALS AND RELATED ACTIONS CALIFORNIA TRIBAL WATER SUMMIT 2013

## **Goals for Implementation and Proposed Next Steps and Related Actions**

During the Working session of the Tribal water Summit, the following Next Steps and Related Actions were recommended to achieve the Goals. **These are not an exhaustive list of next steps needed to achieve these goals but first steps in an ongoing discussion.**

If you believe additional Next Steps are necessary to achieving the stated Goals and you are interested in committing resources to achieving these actions, are already working on projects to achieve these items, or are interested in participating or assisting in any of the actions or items listed below please contact Emily Alejandrino by email at [emily.alejandrino@water.ca.gov](mailto:emily.alejandrino@water.ca.gov), or by phone at 916-651-9276. You may also contact Stephanie Lucero by email at [lucero.stephanie@gmail.com](mailto:lucero.stephanie@gmail.com).

## **Next Steps and Related Actions**

**Goal 1:** Tribes and State agencies will work together to develop strategies and approaches that better incorporate Traditional Tribal Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into water and water-related resource planning and management activities.

### **A. Develop and provide training for Agencies regarding Tribal Sovereignty and Cultural Awareness/Sensitivity**

#### **Related Actions:**

- i. Email State and Federal Agencies to determine who supports and can finance development of interagency training
- ii. Identify existing training sessions
- iii. Convene Tribal Working Group
- iv. Develop Curriculum with Tribal Working Group. Training Components to include:
  - Understanding the broader view of what encompasses tribal homelands
  - Familiarity with various ways that Tribes communicate TEK
  - Provide how natural resources are cultural resources
  - Hiring criteria for Tribal liaisons
  - Effective Outreach with Tribal Communities
- v. Initiate training sessions

### **B. Develop and provide training for Tribes regarding Agency technical support, resources and assistance.**

- i. Convene Tribal Working Group
- ii. Identify existing resources and training sessions
- iii. Develop tribal curriculum with Tribal Working Group. Types/Components of training to include:
  - Basic Inspector Academy



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- GIS training
- Advanced Technologies (LiDAR and Satellite imagery)
- Small Systems operations (Water and wastewater systems)

### **C. Develop effective options, procedures, or protocols for sharing appropriate tribal information (TEK, Data, etc.) to support management decisions**

- i. Develop policies that consistently respect Tribal Ecological Knowledge as a management strategy for decision making.
- ii. Share Information, develop co-management approaches that do not disclose information that cannot be shared to protect those resources (i.e. data sharing that is not dependent on disclosing site locations)
- iii. Establish mutually agreed upon baseline resource conditions
- iv. Develop data with Tribal communities
- v. Develop formal options to share knowledge and information (e.g. conferences, IRWM sponsored events, Resource Conservation District events)

### **D. Garner Support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**

- i. Circulate resolutions supporting UNDRIP
- ii. Identify Tribes already supporting UNDRIP
- iii. Provide information and steps on how to incorporate UNDRIP into Tribal laws, if deemed appropriate by Tribes.
- iv. Develop training on UNDRIP principles and how they tie into planning and TEK processes
- v. Evaluate how UNDRIP may be implemented at the State government level.

**Goal 2:** Tribes and State agencies will work together to develop strategies, educational materials, and recommendations that further the understanding of Tribal uses of water and the broader role of water, and access to water, in Tribal lifeways including subsistence and cultural practices.

### **A. Develop a state policy to recognize Federally-reserved Tribal water rights associated with Federally-reserved Tribal lands, including individual allotments**

- i. Garner support for state policy, preferably before the policy is drafted.

### **B. Tribal Leaders and State Leaders have regular discussions to address Tribal resource needs and issues; these discussions must include the topics of adequate water quantity, flows and water quality.**

- i. Conduct an informational Forum on Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)



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- ii. Find resources to hold regional intergovernmental summits with Tribal and local government leaders
- iii. Hold regional intergovernmental summits/meetings with Tribes and local government Leaders
- iv. Determine options for establishing regular meetings between Tribal Leaders and State Leaders on resource needs.

### **C. Develop Beneficial Use standards that respect and acknowledge cultural and subsistence use of water**

- i. Develop Beneficial Use designations that respect and acknowledge tribal uses. This work is already underway. The work must be tracked and continued
- ii. Find and post for information purposes Region 1 of the Water Board Beneficial Use Designations

### **D. Develop guidelines for ensuring Tribal participation in planning processes**

- i. Evaluate IRWM grant program guidelines and determine what can and needs to be done to ensure Tribe's roles as sovereign entities are respected in regional planning
- ii. Develop suggested text for inclusion in guidelines and legislation that ensures genuine participation of Tribes in planning and funding initiatives
- iii. Disseminate information on the process and language for revising guidelines and/or legislation as necessary
- iv. Initiate revisions to IRWM grant program guidelines.

### **E. Improve In government agency alignment and coordination with Tribes**

- i. Update Org Charts identifying various Agencies and their relation to each other in resource management
- ii. Define role of Tribal liaisons within State agencies including their responsibilities relating to information sharing, coordination on projects, technical resources to tribes and consultation.
- iii. Develop a framework for achieving inter-agency coordination and strengthen alignment

### **F. Develop curriculum and educational resources relating to water rights (What are the resources available, what rights are we discussing, how do we look at them)**

- i. Identify existing curriculum
- ii. Coordinate where curriculum requires revisions
- iii. Suggested inclusions: clarify role of federal trust responsibility and tribal water rights, economics of water, and answer the question why Tribes as sovereign nations need to look to the State government to determine water rights



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**Goal 3: Watershed Management and Land Use Goal:** Tribes and State agencies will work together to develop strategies and options for ensuring greater and early collaboration regarding water resource projects, as well as watershed and land use planning and management activities, especially where state agency decisions impact Tribal trust lands and/or traditional territories/homelands.

**A. Identify pilot projects for effective co-management for template and/or training.**

- i. Identify existing projects that effectively provide for co-management and incorporation of TEK
- ii. Develop inventory of tools and resources used by effective projects
- iii. Develop database and update database with projects, tools and resources

**B. Increasing, refining, enhancing, and better supporting Tribal outreach**

- i. Define agency Tribal liaison roles and responsibilities
- ii. Identify and implement strategies to strengthen Tribal involvement in State government outreach and engagement
- iii. Identify options for creating a statewide network of Tribal representatives or organizations to liaise with State agencies on behalf of or in coordination with multiple Tribes within a region. Multiple tribal concerns should be included in within their range of responsibilities (e.g. legal, policy, and local conditions)

**C. Enhance meaningful Tribal Consultation: encourage and move towards earlier involvement by Tribes, initiate consultation for programmatic decisions – as well as project-level decisions, adjust timelines to allow adequate time to bring items before Tribal councils and Leaders, conduct meetings on Tribal lands**

- i. Identify existing Tribal consultation policies
- ii. Coordinate with inter-agency framework development

**D. Review and Update Implementation Plan and Framework**

- i. Inform those taking responsibility of their agreed roles in Implementation Plan
- ii. Review Progress of Implementation Actions